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Sen. Birkholz supports new components of latest draft of Annex 2001 water regulations

LANSING – Sen. Patty Birkholz today welcomed the announcement of the newest version of Annex 2001 and says she supports the direction that this new proposal is taking but is looking forward both to reading the details of the latest draft and hearing public comments on it in the coming months.

“I’m pleased to see the states’ authority to regulate in-basin use is preserved and that any state can veto a proposed water diversion, but I realize there is much public interest in this and I look forward to hearing what Michigan residents and businesses have to say,” said Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township. “This proposal is still a work in progress and it’s important for all of us to be involved to review the revised annex proposal.”

Birkholz’ preliminary support for the latest proposal is specifically focused on two main points. The first is the clear authority for any Great Lakes governor to veto proposed diversions of water outside the Great Lakes basin. The second is that oversight over in-basin uses are left to the authority of the individual states.

“I fought to have these aspects included in the proposal and will continue to fight for them to ensure that each state has the authority to control how its water is used,” Birkholz said. “Allowing individual control will create a system of checks and balances that is critical to preserving the Great Lakes.”

The draft Annex 2001 Implementing Agreements are the result of four years of efforts by the Council of Great Lakes Governors’ Water Management Working Group to address Great Lakes Basin protection issues, including the diversion of water outside of the Basin and water uses within the Basin.

Public comment on the new proposal begins today and lasts 60 days. At that point, the Council of Great Lakes Governors will consider finalizing the proposal.

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